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AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES SECTION

The Agricultural Libraries Section met on the evening of June 21, with the chairman for the year, Malcolm G. Wyer, presiding. In the absence of the regular secretary, W. P. Lewis, librarian of the New Hampshire College of Agriculture, was appointed secretary.

Before proceeding with the regular program the chairman called upon H. W. Wilson to explain the financial status of the *Agricultural Index* which was started a few years ago by the H. W. Wilson Company at the request of the Agricultural Libraries Section. Mr. Wilson stated that the cost of this index far exceeds the income from subscriptions and that some means must be found to decrease the cost or to increase the subscription receipts. This can be done by increasing the number of subscriptions, by increasing the subscription price or by curtailing the scope of the index service. After a thorough discussion in which all testified to the importance and value of the *Agricultural Index* it was voted that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Wilson in regard to future plans for the index. The chairman appointed Charles R. Green, W. P. Lewis and Eunice Oberly as members of this committee.

The following program was then given:

The contribution of librarians to agricultural history and research, by Eunice R. Oberly, Librarian, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.;

A study of agricultural library buildings

of various types, by Wm. M. Hepburn, Librarian, Purdue University. In the absence of Mr. Hepburn the paper was read by Alice M. Dougan of the Purdue Library staff;

Agricultural publications in Canada, by Jacquetta Gardiner, Librarian, Ontario Agricultural College;

Latin-American official agricultural magazines, by Chas. E. Babcock, Librarian, Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C.

The last two papers were presented by the chairman in the absence of the authors.

A general round table discussion on the points brought out in the papers followed the formal program and the plans of library buildings on exhibition were examined with interest. Consideration was given to various improvements that should be made in the form of publication of various experiment station bulletins, especially the series numbering, bulletin title, etc. No action was taken but it was suggested that the new officers might take these matters up with the editorial association if thought advisable. A digest and summary of the survey of agricultural libraries had been sent by the committee for the program of this section but the material was not received in time for presentation.

The officers elected were: Chairman, Lucy E. Fay, Librarian, University of Tennessee; Secretary, Mary G. Lacy, Washington, D. C. It was suggested by the Nomination Committee that the secretary might well hold office for two or three years.

CATALOG SECTION

The Catalog Section met on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, June 21 and 22, Ellen M. Chandler, of the Buffalo Public Library, presiding. In the absence of Miss Lynch, Miss Howe acted as secretary at the first session and Mrs. Jennings at the second. The general subject of the first session was

THE CATALOG SITUATION—WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE CATALOGERS

To aid in solving the problem it had been decided to call into council those interested

in library training, and the invitation met with cordial response. The subject seemed to comprise, first, a general survey of the purpose of cataloging and its value to the users of libraries, and, second, the reasons for the dearth of catalogers, and the question of making the work more attractive to those who are competent to do it.

The first speaker was Dr. Archibald Cary Coolidge, director of Harvard University Library, who discussed THE OBJECTS OF CATALOGING from the standpoint of the large public library (Printed in *Library Jour-*

nal, September 15, 1921, pp 735-739.)

Louise Fargo Brown, of Vassar College, spoke for the users of catalogs—"the Ultimate Consumer," and told of her ADVENTURES WITH CATALOGS. This paper was printed in the July number of *Public Libraries*, pp. 371-374.

Margaret Mann gave some of the results of her work as chairman of the Sub-Committee on Cataloging, which belongs to the A. L. A. Committee on Library Training. After some discussion Mrs. Frances Rathbone Coe read a paper, MAKING THE DRY SIDE OF CATALOGING INTERESTING, and soon convinced her audience that cataloging has no dry side. Mrs. Coe's paper was printed in *Public Libraries*, July, 1921, pp. 367-370.

The discussion of the cataloging situation was participated in by Mr. Martel, Miss Mann, Miss Lindstedt, Miss Rathbone, Miss Poland, Mr. Currier, Mr. Windsor, Miss Hedrick, Miss Gooch, Mary E. Baker, Adelaide F. Evans, Miss Monrad, Mary E. Hyde, Dr. Van Hoesen, and others.

Many interesting reasons for the dearth of catalogers were brought out. The principal causes seem to be small salaries; monotonous and often lonely work, apart from the rest of the library organization; the strong emphasis, in both speech and print, on the social side of library work—work with the public, work with the children, work with the foreigners, etc.; too much public discussion of methods and too little of the cataloger's real purpose—the making of a library's resources available; a tendency on the part of library folk generally to speak disparagingly of catalog work as uninteresting; and the difficulty of finding persons competent to become good catalogers. The remedies suggested were: a salary scale which recognizes the highly technical character of the cataloger's work, and the special ability and training necessary for it; more diversity of work, especially by combination of cataloging and reference work; more individual responsibility for parts or kinds of work; more real effort to make known the interesting and cultural side of the cataloger's work and the satisfaction of un-

locking the library's resources. It was also urged that more use of the cataloger's intimate knowledge of the books she catalogs, and of her previous training, be made in the reference and perhaps other departments, and that she should have the benefit and pleasure of using the tool she has made, and it was suggested that time be allowed her for study, especially if she is able to carry some university work, lest scholarly cataloging perish from the earth.

On Wednesday afternoon the chairman reported that, as instructed by the Colorado Springs meeting, she had undertaken a registration of catalogers and that two hundred and seventy had responded. It was voted to turn the file over to Headquarters, where it is desired. Mr. Currier, chairman of a committee of three appointed Tuesday afternoon, reported a communication to be sent to the Council of the A. L. A., suggesting that it express officially to the Senate Committee on Civil Service, the urgent need for financial relief for the Catalog Division of the Library of Congress, whose invaluable service in making its catalog cards available to the libraries of the country is seriously menaced by the loss of its experts.

Mrs. Jennie T. Jennings, of St. Paul, read a paper on HOW THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION WORKS OUT IN A PUBLIC LIBRARY. Her paper was followed by a symposium on methods of dealing with, but not cataloging of, various kinds of "Refractory Material:" pamphlets, music, Great War material, documents, and "easy books." Clara P. Briggs told how the Harvard College Library dealt with the Wendell collection, and H. M. Lydenberg, Adelaide F. Evans, Jessie M. Woodford and Zana K. Miller spoke on the special topics. Dr. Van Hoesen then outlined and gave some additional points to be added to his Library Institute paper on SHORT CATALOGING AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CATALOGING.

Mrs. Jennie Thornburg Jennings was elected chairman and Ruth Rosholt secretary for the coming year.

ELLEN M. CHANDLER,
Chairman.